

# THE POLYNESIAN.

SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1862.

[From the New Bedford "Standard," January 2.]

## The Whale Fishery.—Review of the Year.

The past year has been characterized by a large diminution in the whaling fleet, the decrease having been larger than in any year since 1855, when the number of vessels engaged in the business was 654, with a tonnage of 203,145 tons; on the 1st of January, 1862, the number will be but 422, with a tonnage of 127,608 tons, a decrease, in four years, of 232 vessels and 25,540 tons. The decrease for the past year has been 90 vessels and 31,185 tons; the decrease for the year ending December, 1860, was 67 vessels and 18,096 tons; for 1859, 56 vessels and 15,273 tons; 1858, 29 vessels and 8,033 tons.

Previous to the great revulsion of 1857, the whaling business had been in a highly prosperous condition, oil was in great demand at remunerative and profitable prices, ships were fitted at great, and sometimes extravagant expense, the officers receiving fancy pay, and the whole business conducted upon "high pressure" principles. The ships fitted since 1858 having sailed at high cost, returning many of them with poor success, although many have brought in large cargoes, having the unlow prices, and in a great many instances the unwillingness to dispose of the catch at the ruling rates, proved ruinous to the owners. Ships fitted since that period have sailed at a greatly reduced cost, economy having been exercised both in the outfit and fitting of the vessel, so that the business has become more adapted to the price of our great staples. Still the price of whale oil is not high enough to pay for the expense of catching it, although whaling is greatly in excess of the price a dozen years since. Owing to the numerous substitutes for oil as an illuminating substance, which have been introduced, and we are sorry to be obliged to admit that the efforts of our merchants to procure, by the gratuity of a large sum of money for the production of lamps fitted to burn whale oil and give a light equal to these substitutes, have signally failed in realizing the objects aimed at, viz: to increase the consumption of whale oil. The lamps for which prizes were awarded answered the expectations of all parties, but from a want of enterprise, as it seems to us, they have been introduced to a very limited extent.

Sperm oil, owing to the depression in the manufacturing interest, both in this country and Great Britain, is held at rather a low figure, but we think with the revival of business, which will surely ensue, it will rise to a profitable price, which should be about \$1.50 per gal., to make the business a healthy one. As the stock on hand of sperm oil is very light, one. As the stock on hand of sperm oil is very light, one. As the stock on hand of sperm oil is very light, one.

The coming year, as during the past, most of the vessels fitted will be for the sperm whale fishery, and those ships returning from sea too large or requiring heavy repairs will be sold for other business. The vessels in port, an unusually large number, (at this point alone there being 24 ships and 24 barks, and at all other ports 39 vessels—a total of 63,) are for the most part good vessels, the purchase made by the government of old vessels to be sunk for the blockade of Southern ports having pruned out those needing heavy repairs.

The Cumberland Inlet fishery, for which 4 ships were fitted last year from this port and Fairhaven, have returned, with the exception of one which, wintered there, with indifferent success, owing to the unparalleled severity of the winter of '60 and '61. The hopes entertained of this ground have been thereby disappointed, although with a less severe season, allowing for the usual breaking up of the ice, the ships fitted from Fairhaven, in the same manner as the others, however proceeded into Hudson's Bay, and wintered in Sir Thomas Rowe's Welcome, and bring back cheer intelligence of the number of whales seen and the probability of large catches being made there. This news has stimulated the fitting of two ships which have already sailed and will visit those inhospitable seas as early in the Spring as possible. Other ships will probably be dispatched for the same destination the ensuing season.

During the year 6 of the fleet have been lost at sea, 6 have been condemned in foreign ports, and 3 have been taken by pirates in the Gulf of Mexico. At present this city has in the whaling business 257 ships and barks and 1 schooner, with a tonnage of 87,128 tons—a decrease during the year of 31 vessels and 11,532 tons.

The past year 25 vessels have sailed from this port and 5 from Fairhaven, on whaling voyages, while in the previous year 66 vessels sailed from this port and 9 from Fairhaven. Of the ships sailed from this port the past year 8 have sailed to cruise in the Atlantic Ocean, 6 in the Pacific; 5 in the Atlantic and Indian; 2 in the Atlantic Ocean and Hudson's Bay; 2 in the Atlantic and Pacific; 1 in the Indian; and 1 in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. All the vessels sailing from Fairhaven have been fitted for the Atlantic Ocean. Not a ship has been fitted from this port for the North Pacific fishery during the year, while in '60 six sailed for that destination, and in 1859, not a single ship had been fitted for the Arctic, Ochotsk or Kodak Seas from any port in the United States during the year 1861.

The great North Pacific fleet of past years, which in 1846 amounted to 292 ships, in 1850 to 144, in 1852 to 278, in 1854 to 232, in 1856 to 178, in 1858 to 196, and in 1860 to 120 ships, this year numbers only 61 ships. We have not yet received full returns from the fleet, but dates from the Sandwich Islands to Nov. 23d, state that 65 ships of all nations had arrived there, 31 from the Arctic, with an average catch of 836 barrels, and 34 ships from the Ochotsk, with an average of 760 barrels. Several ships have arrived at San Francisco with good fares, which will increase this average somewhat. The average will therefore be better than for several years past, although not near as much oil will be taken, owing to the small number of ships. In 1860, about 120 ships cruised at the North, with an average catch of 518 barrels of oil to each ship.

The following table gives the number of ships engaged in the North Pacific fishery for the last 17 years, and the average quantity of oil taken:

Year	Ships	Average Quantity of Oil (barrels)
1846—1850	292	953 bbls.
1851—1855	144	829 bbls.
1856—1860	178	1,059 bbls.
1861—1865	120	1,164 bbls.
1866—1870	61	1,092 bbls.
1871—1875	61	1,343 bbls.
1876—1880	61	912 bbls.
1881—1885	61	784 bbls.
1886—1890	61	873 bbls.
1891—1895	61	822 bbls.
1896—1900	61	798 bbls.
1901—1905	61	620 bbls.
1906—1910	61	620 bbls.
1911—1915	61	516 bbls.

The stock of whalebone on hand is very large and has continued to increase for the last five years, owing in a measure to the use of steel pens per lb. for the manufacture of hoop skirts and umbrellas, which at one time absorbed a large part of the importation, and materially aided in the rapid increase in value of the article since 1854. Yet we see that there is a continued firmness in the market, and that bone is held as high as at any time during the year.

The stock of whale oil is large but must be greatly reduced in the coming year, as the importations will necessarily be much reduced from former years. With the stock of whale oil reduced to the importations the market will be brought to a more healthy state, and then we can look forward to an advance to 65 and 60 cents, which would be about its real value.

The prices of both sperm and whale oil, and bone, have been lower than in 1860. The average prices during the year have been for sperm oil 131 1-3 cents per gal.; whale oil 44 7-8 cents per gal.; and whale bone 72 7-8 cents per lb., for Arctic, 68 2-3 cents per lb. for Ochotsk, and 62 3-4 cents per lb. for South Sea. The average price for 1860 was 141 1-2 cents per gal. for sperm oil; 49 1-2 cents per gal. for whale oil; and 80 1-5 cents per lb. for Northern bone, and 73 3-4 cents for Southern.

The following table gives the average prices of oil and bone for the last twenty years:

Year	Sperm Oil	Whale Oil	Bone
1861	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1862	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1863	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1864	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1865	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1866	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1867	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1868	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1869	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1870	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1871	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1872	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1873	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1874	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1875	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1876	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1877	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1878	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1879	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8
1880	131 1-3	44 7-8	72 7-8

By reference to the above statistics it will be seen that twenty years since, and as late as twelve years ago, and bone were held at a much less figure than now, and yet the business was very profitable, and farther back the prices were still lower. But to account for this disparity it must be recollected that the expenses were not half as high then, and ships months, often taking their cargoes to Europe for sale, without breaking cargo, and returning home within a year. All this is changed. Leviathan has been driven from sea to sea, until long voyages to the Arctic and the Ochotsk are necessary to secure a full ship, and those grounds for the past few years have been unproductive in a great measure, owing to the large number of ships and the wideness of the whales occasioned thereby.

MORE WHALESHIPS WITHDRAWN.—Since writing the foregoing, the foreign mails have brought advice of the sale and condemnation of four ships, viz: Ship *Herbert*, of this port, 37 tons, sold at Honolulu; ship *Tahiroa*, of this port, 351 tons, sold at Papeete; bark *Philip*, of New London, 292 tons, sold at Honolulu; and ship *Cordeauze*, of Mystic, 306 tons, condemned and sold at Mauritius. Total, 1,326 tons.

## Shortly Expected

BY

**C. BREWER & Co.**

The well Selected

**CARGO!**

OF THE

**CLP. BK. 'ARCTIC'**

HAMMOND, Master,

CONSISTING IN PART AS FOLLOWS, viz:—

**DRY GOODS!**

Bales Denims, of various brands;

Cases Prints, selected patterns;

Cashmeres, mixed and fancy;

White Flannel,

Shaker Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

White Flannel,

## Real Estate.

Don't Read This!

Unless you want a Chance to make Money!

TO LET!

A well known Business Stand, on Reasonable Terms.

National Dining Saloon

THE UNDERSIGNED OFFERS TO LET ON

reasonable terms, the above named place of resort, possession to be given on the 14th of March next.

The building contains three handsome Dining Rooms and private apartments on the lower floor, and a number of Chambers above, and is completely furnished with every convenience.

A large, convenient and airy Cook House is attached to the premises, as are also a wood shed, store-room, bath, room, and other offices.

Very Water laid on throughout.

No expense need be incurred, as every requisite for the business will be found on the premises.

For further particulars, apply to

JOSEPH BOOTH.

Honolulu, Dec. 27, 1861.

TO BE LET!

Dwelling Houses

SUITABLE FOR

Large Families!

AMERICA-HOUSE, ON BRITANIA ST.

At present occupied by Captain Green and his family, with

at Honolulu; ship *Tahiroa*, of this port, 351 tons, sold at Papeete; bark *Philip*, of New London, 292 tons, sold at Honolulu; and ship *Cordeauze*, of Mystic, 306 tons, condemned and sold at Mauritius. Total, 1,326 tons.

Entry from the 28th January to the 1st of February.

— ALSO —

THE SPACIOUS HOUSE ON WAIKIKI

Plain, lately occupied by Mr. Barrett, with its Outbuildings and large enclosure.

Entry immediately. Apply to

C. C. HARRIS, Attorney at Law.

28 ft

To Let.

THE RESTAURANT PREMISES ON KING ST.

NOW OCCUPIED BY MR. G. WILHELM.

This house will be vacated by the 1st of January, and is

the good business stand, possessing every convenience for a family, etc., favorably recommended to the public.

For particulars apply to

W. L. GREEN.

Country Residence to Let!

THE HOUSE IN NUUANU VALLEY.

Formerly the residence of Mr. Robt. C. Janion, will be

let on very reasonable terms.

For particulars apply to

W. L. GREEN.

SUGAR PLANTATION FOR LEASE!

SITUATE ON HILO BAY, at pres.

For further information apply to

W. H. PEASE.

HONOLULU

STEAM BISCUIT BAKERY!

THE UNDERSIGNED WOULD RESPECT-

fully inform his friends and the public generally that the Honolulu Steam Biscuit Bakery is now in full operation,

and is prepared to furnish Pilot and Navy Biscuit, Water Crackers and every description of

FANCY BISCUITS!

All of superior quality and at

PRICES TO DEFY COMPETITION!!

Parties furnishing their own flour for ship bread will have it

made up at the lowest possible rates.

SHIP BREAD REBAKED!!

Orders from the other islands promptly attended to.

ROBERT LOVE,

Nuuanu Street.

## Hotels and Restaurants.

National Hotel,

CORNER OF NUUANU & HOTEL STS.

THE UNDERSIGNED, Proprietor

of the above establishment, would inform his friends and the public, that with his

extensive stock of the best brands of Wines and Liquors, new BILLIARD SALOON,

BOWLING ALLEYS, and gentlemanly attendance, nothing

is left wanting for their comfort and amusement.

JOSEPH BOOTH.

Globe Coffee Saloon.

THE undersigned has this day opened a

COFFEE and REFRESHMENT SALOON, on Port street, nearly opposite the Old Fellows' Hall, where he

will be happy to meet his friends, and will spare no

effort to please them.

The best Oyster Stews or Chocolate prepared at a few

minutes notice.

Honolulu, May 10, 1860. 2 ft F. W. LOBE.

Merchant's Exchange

BOWLING SALOON!

THE PROPRIETOR OF THE MER-

chant's Exchange Hotel begs to inform the Public that he

has erected two superior

MARBLE BOWLING ALLEYS!

Mr. W. H. CARROLL, will have charge of the Alleys, and all

those wishing to engage in this health-giving game are invited

to give him a call, the Proprietor pledging himself that nothing

shall be wanting on his part to render his Alleys the most

agreeable place of resort for recreation and amusement in Ho-

lonolulu. 29 ft

JUST RECEIVED

Per

Ship "Thomas Daniel!"

From Liverpool.

FOR SALE BY THE UNDERSIGNED!

A SPLENDID Assortment of Goods, expressly se-

lected for this market, consisting in part of

Cases printed cottons, various styles,

do superior white shirts,

do ordinary shirts,

do regatta shirts,

do white cuttings, assorted qualities,

do madapolams,

do brown cottons,

do cotton undershirts,

do silk handkerchiefs, assorted styles.

CASES CLOTHING!

Cases huckaback towels,

do white linen cambric handkerchiefs,

do linen damask for table cloth,

do damask napkins,

do mosquito netting,

do table oil cloth,

do silk umbrellas.

BALES BLUE FLANNEL!

Bales blue flannel,

do black hosiery,

do black cottons,

do Brussels tapestry carpets.

Cases all HOGSKIN SADDLES!

Cases common Saddles,

do ladies' riding hats, assorted styles,

do T D pipes,

25 TONS RICE